

**Frequently asked Questions
Field Team Program
Maine Conservation Corps**

At what time of year are MCC teams engaged in projects?

The MCC summer season runs mid-May through mid-August, and the fall season runs mid-August through mid-November. Exact dates vary year to year. You can serve during the summer and/or fall.

When do I need to apply?

Applications can be submitted at any time. To receive full consideration, complete applications should be submitted prior to the position's application deadline. Deadlines vary by year and position; please see the MCC website for details.

How can I check the status of my application?

You can call or e-mail Brenda Webber at MCC. Applications are filed in the following categories:

1. Incomplete - Incomplete applications often are missing proof of citizenship or references. Applications are held in incomplete status until all required items are received.
2. Complete – Application has all required items.
3. Screened – All complete applications are reviewed by MCC staff, and the most promising individuals are selected for telephone interviews.
4. Scheduled for Interview – at this point you will be contacted for an interview.
5. Not selected for Interview – not all candidates are selected for an interview.

When will I be called for an Interview?

If you are selected for an interview, MCC staff generally begin the interview process around the application deadline, and will continue to interview potential members up until approximately a month before the position's start date. The most helpful thing you can do is be sure your application is complete with all required items.

What Kinds of Projects will I do with MCC?

MCC projects are primarily directed at building trails and providing public access to natural areas. About 1/3 of these projects are located in remote or wilderness areas:

Appalachian Trail
Debsconeag Lakes Wilderness
Wright Trail

Grafton Notch Area
West Grand Lake
Deboullie Mountain

Projects in remote areas typically involve reconstructing trails with stone, and often involve rigging systems and rock drilling equipment.

The majority of MCC projects are located in scenic areas throughout Maine's communities and coastal regions:

Acadia National Park
Portland City Parks
Western Foothills Land Trust Trails

Bradbury Mountain State Park
Wolfe's Neck Woods State Park
Mt. Blue State Park

Front Country projects are varied, and can involve trail construction, bridge building, boardwalk construction and building gravel walking and bike paths.

What are the teams like?

Full size Teams consist of a leader and 5 members. Some teams include an Assistant Team Leader. Team members must be at least 18 years old. Most team members are from 18 to 25 years old. On average, more than half of our corps members are from Maine, with the rest coming from other states. About half of our members are women. Occasionally we have 3 person teams called "Mini teams" that work with community volunteers.

What Schedules would I work?

You can anticipate serving on different schedules during your season with MCC.

5 on and 2 off—Monday through Friday.

9 on and 5 off—Monday through next week's Tuesday for distant projects.

Is Housing Provided?

MCC provides tents for all teams while they are camping at the project site. MCC does not provide tents or housing on days off for most projects. Corps members who live in Maine usually go home on their days off.

Some sponsors provide a campsite to the team for the duration of the project. MCC calls these "residential" project sites and the team can camp in the same place on their days off as well. Residential sites are popular with people who come from places outside of Maine to join the MCC.

Can I pick where I go and what schedule I will work on?

You will be able to express your preferences for projects and schedules, and MCC will do it's best to accommodate your request. We cannot guarantee that you will get exactly what you ask for.

How long will I work on my project(s)?

Projects can vary greatly in length and commitment. Some jobs last a week, some for as long as 12 weeks. Planning for projects is a constant activity, and sometimes assignments are made on short notice.

What benefits are provided?

MCC Benefits

MCC work is community service work. You will not receive regular wages during your term of service. You will receive a living allowance. Living allowances vary by position. The MCC provides health insurance and Worker's Compensation insurance. The MCC also provides all members with a Maine State Park pass which will allow you to hike & camp in all State parks (except for Baxter State Park) for free. In addition, MCC member receive invitations for "pro-deals" from many companies.

AmeriCorps Benefits

If you are eligible for AmeriCorps, you may be eligible for deferment of student loans, childcare reimbursement, and upon successful completion of a term of service, members receive an educational award that can be used for tuition, books, student loan payments, etc.

Can I bring my dog?

Pets are not allowed on MCC projects, at the MCC office, in State vehicles, or at MCC residential sites.

What is MCC's policy on Alcohol?

Maine Conservation Corps maintains an alcohol and drug free workplace.

1. Consumption of alcohol is not allowed by any member of the Maine Conservation Corps during a session of service. A session of service begins and ends according to a schedule assigned to the team by the Program Coordinator, and includes all scheduled and unscheduled time during the session.
2. If a Member serves at a residential location, where a campsite is provided by MCC or a project sponsor for their days off, no alcohol may be consumed at the residential location or its immediate vicinity at any time.

3. If a Member leaves the residential location during days off, and chooses to consume alcohol, MCC is not responsible. MCC recommends that Members drink responsibly and observe all State and local laws pertaining to alcohol.
4. Returning to the facility after excessive consumption of alcohol will not be tolerated. Drunken, rowdy, or disturbing behaviors will be considered grounds for disciplinary action or termination.

Do I need to have a car?

If you are coming to Maine from another state, please note that Maine is a rural state with almost no public transportation. It can be a challenge to live and work here without a car, but it is not impossible.

All MCC members are expected to meet their team at the Hallowell Office or at their assigned residential location at the beginning of each session. Each team has a van/truck and trailer to take them to and from the project site. You will need to be able to get to and from home and the office, etc, by yourself or with other team members. MCC vehicles are state vehicles and not available for commuting or personal use.

As a general rule, personal vehicles are not permitted at project sites, unless the MCC member provides a compelling reason to bring one.

What do I need for personal equipment and clothing?

MCC provides an equipment list to all incoming members. The list includes many suggestions on types of clothing required for our variable weather (freezing nights during the spring and fall, and sometimes 90's F in summer) with rain likely anytime.